

DODWORTH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT of the Medical Officer of Health  
for the year ended 31st December, 1944.



Gentlemen,

I have the pleasure of submitting my Annual Report re the vital statistics and health of the township of Dodworth and also the report of the work carried out under the supervision of your Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Herbert Strutt.

During 1944 there were no serious epidemics. The general health of the township, as demonstrated in its vital statistics, was good. There was an increase in the Infantile Mortality rate due mainly to the fact that one infant death which occurred in 1943 was not registered until 1944. There were still prevalent cases of Scabies. This is a contagious disease from which innocent people sometimes suffer. It is easily cured. The greatest obstacles in its abolition are Ignorance and Neglect.

The Child Welfare and Babies Clinic, which is held at 2 p.m every Tuesday, and the Ante-natal Clinic, which is held at 2 p.m on the first and third Thursday of each calendar month, continue to be well attended and are of a social, educative and curative value with a wonderful future in front of them. No doubt in time they will be better accommodated and be still more effective in abolishing the darkness of ignorance, so potent a cause of disease and illness by spreading knowledge amongst the people and by creating a feeling of well-being, hope and confidence through the personal touch of doctor, nurse and friend - all so necessary in the perpetual warfare against disease of the body and the mind. They are and can be made more and more the instruments of our newer, better and grander conceptions of health which are emerging. Health is no longer conceived merely as something out of a bottle or a Chemist's shop. The Tuberculosis and Venereal Disease Clinics are held in Barnsley and do very good work. Their work is more definitely curative but you cannot separate cure entirely from prevention without imperilling your cures. Prevention has to do certainly with protecting the individual from recurrences but also more especially with protecting the community from the spread of disease - hence the necessity for communal action.

Every village and hamlet have their certificated midwife nowadays employed by the local authority. In Dodworth the Midwife engaged by the West Riding County Council resides at 32 South Road. She can be engaged by any expectant mother. Very properly and rightly she works in conjunction with other midwives in adjoining townships, so that when she is not available owing to being on holiday or off duty, another nurse can be secured. On the whole, in my opinion and experience this arrangement works well and is a great advance from the old days of the "handy-woman".

For general nursing the local Nursing Association employs a district nurse who resides at the Association's house in Jermyn Croft. The work done by this Association and their nurse is inestimable. It is a great boon especially to the older people.

Then the West Riding County Council provides a health visitor, a nurse, who visits the schools and inspects the school children and advises parents or refers the children to their own doctor or clinic. She also visits the newly born babies and mothers in their homes. All this work is of great value.

All these things are the signs of things to come.

The area of Dodworth Urban District is 1,917 acres. The census population in 1921 and 1931 was 3,390 and 4,248 respectively.

In 1944 the estimated resident population was 3,898. In 1933 there were 969 houses, in 1938, 1,026 houses, and in 1944, 1,024 houses. The rateable value is £13,330 and the sum represented by 1d rate is £49. 3. 0d.

Coal mining is the only industry in the township apart from agriculture.

BIRTHS.

The number of live births was 89 (43 males and 46 females) of which three were illegitimate. This represents a birth-rate of 22.9 per 1,000 resident population. The birth-rate for England and Wales was 17.6. Out of the 89 births, 53 were born in Dodworth and 36 were born in hospitals or nursing homes, or elsewhere. Given good homes and good and efficient help in the home with proper nursing and medical facilities there is still much to be said in favour of babies being born at home - in fact, in my opinion, it is preferable from the point of view of the health of mother and baby.

There were 4 still-births - all legitimate. This represents a rate of 1.02 compared with .5 for England and Wales. I have no useful or helpful comment to make here.

DEATHS.

There were 36 deaths (19 males and 17 females). This represents a death rate of 9.2 per 1,000 resident population compared with a rate of 11.1 for England and Wales.

Causes of Death.

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Heart	9	6	3
Cancer	4	3	1
Kidney	1	0	1
Malformations & Infantile Diseases	4	2	2
Alimentary Tract	2	1	1
Violent Causes (Accidents)	4	3	1
Pneumonic	2	0	2
Brain	5	2	3
Meningitis	1	0	1
Senility	4	2	2
Totals	<u>36</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>17</u>

Infantile Deaths.

There were five deaths of infants under one year registered in 1944 - an Infantile Mortality rate of 56 per 1,000 live births, as compared with 46 for England and Wales. One of the five deaths occurred in 1943 but owing to the postponement of the inquest was registered in 1944. The ages and causes of death were:-

1. 2 days - Premature and difficult birth.
2. 15 days - Born in hospital and died of Pneumonia there.
3. 4 Weeks - Drowning.
4. 6 weeks - Acute Pemphigus - died in hospital.
5. 6 months- Died in hospital from Broncho-pneumonia

Totals of Births & Deaths in Dodworth for years 1935/44      A comparison of Infantile Death Rates of Dodworth and England and Wales for years 1935/44.

	<u>Births</u>	<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Dodworth</u>	<u>England &amp; Wales.</u>
1935	85	39	23.5	57
1936	87	46	92	59
1937	113	48	53	58



	<u>Births</u>	<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Dodworth</u>	<u>England &amp; Wales</u>
1938	84	42	95	53
1939	78	47	86	57
1940	70	45	57	55
1941	86	45	58	59
1942	83	36	36	49
1943	92	39	43	49
1944	89	36	56	46

### NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

#### Age Group Analysis of Notified Infectious Diseases.

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Scarlet Fever.</u>	<u>Meas-les.</u>	<u>Diph-theria.</u>	<u>Pneu-Monia.</u>	<u>Tuber-culosis.</u>	<u>Oph-thalmia.</u>	<u>Puer-Pyrexia.</u>	<u>Whooping Cough.</u>	<u>Menin-gititis.</u>
0 to 1 year						1			
1 to 2 years			1	1					
2 to 3 years	1	1		1				1	
3 to 4 years	1								
4 to 5 years	2								
5 to 10 years	5		1	1					
10 to 20 years	2		1		1				
30 to 40 years				3	1		1		
60 to 70 years				2					1
<u>TOTALS</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

### TUBERCULOSIS.

There were two cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis notified. Both were admitted to a sanatorium.

#### Comparative incidence of notifiable Infectious Diseases.

	<u>1937.</u>	<u>1938.</u>	<u>1940.</u>	<u>1941.</u>	<u>1942.</u>	<u>1943.</u>	<u>1944.</u>
Scarlet Fever	1	10	9	7	6	14	11
Measles	0	0	38	9	10	101	1
Whooping Cough	0	0	0	30	0	0	1
Diphtheria	2	6	4	0	0	1	3
Tuberculosis	3	6	2	0	2	4	2
Pneumonia	4	1	6	15	3	6	8
Meningitis	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Erysipelas	1	1	0	0	0	1	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	2	2	0	0	1	1
Ophthalmia	0	0	0	0	0	0	1

### DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Of the three cases notified one case only had been immunised. Every child should be immunised as soon as possible after reaching 1 year of age. Free immunisation is offered. During 1944 101 immunisations were completed and it was estimated that approximately 73% of the child population between the ages of 1 and 14 years had been immunised.

### SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT, 1944.

<u>Year.</u>	<u>Houses.</u>	<u>Privies.</u>	<u>W.C's.</u>	<u>W.W.C's.</u>	<u>Pails.</u>
1942	1024	26	906	31	3
1943	1024	25	907	31	3
1944	1024	25	907	31	3

### SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The Sewage Disposal Works are adequate for the needs of the District. They are constructed to provide for a population of 5,500. No complaints or adverse reports have been made since the works were re-constructed in 1917. The sewage sludge is disposed of to local farmers and allotment holders. Slight subsidence at the works owing to colliery workings has not caused any appreciable amount of damage to the working of the plant.

### ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

Two houses found to be infested were dealt with.

### SCHOOLS.

The sanitary condition of the three Schools is satisfactory

### WATER SUPPLY.

All the houses in the District, with the exception of one, have water laid on to the house. The supply is satisfactory and adequate, and is supplied by the Barnsley Corporation.

### SANITARY INSPECTION.

A number of inspections have been made and repairs to defective roofs, chimney stacks and eaves spouts have been carried out to old houses scheduled as unfit. In the Gilroyd district Colliery subsidence has affected 63 houses. The damage caused ranges from badly cracked outer and inner walls to slight cracks in plaster ceilings. Frequent visits have been made and the Colliery Company responsible for the damage have carried out temporary repairs to roofs, the easement of doors and windows. Permanent repairs will be carried out when subsidence ceases. In no case has the damage caused to the houses necessitated the erection of shoring to the outer walls.

### INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

12 lbs. of bacon was reported as unfit for human consumption. The bacon was examined and condemned.

### PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Weekly collections are made from 885 dust bins by scavenging lorry, and the contents disposed of by controlled tipping. All glass, rags, etc., are salvaged.

### SALVAGE.

The following salvage was collected and disposed of during 1944:-

Waste paper	11 tons.	3 cwt.
Glass	8 tons.	2 cwt.
Rags		6 cwt.
Bones		12½ cwt.

### COWSHEDS AND MILK DEALERS.

There are 12 cowkeepers in the District, three of which are licensed for the production of accredited milk. The total number of cowsheds in use is 28. All have been periodically inspected.

Your obedient Servant,

J. LEISHMAN. M.A., M.D.

Medical Officer of Health.